

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Owens for conducting the kind and courteous discussion with Applicants' representative, Daniel R. Evans, on January 14, 2005. The content of the discussion is reflected in the amendments to the claims and the comments contained herewith.

An aspect of the present invention is related to a process for producing a glycidyl ether adduct and a catalyst employed in said process. As noted on pages 1-2 of the present specification, the addition reaction between an organic compound having active hydrogen atoms and a glycidyl ether can result in multiple addition products. For example, the addition reaction between glycerin and a glycidyl ether in the presence of a basic catalyst requires the addition of a five-fold excess of glycerin in order to suppress the multiple-addition adducts. However, this is disadvantageous from an industrial standpoint as there is a reduction in productivity and an increase in cost involved in the separation of the excess glycerin from the resultant adduct. It should be clear then that it is advantageous to develop processes in which the adduct formation can be made to be more selective.

Aspects of the present invention are directed at providing a catalyst (see Claim 1), which catalyzes a process for producing a glycidyl ether adduct (see Claim 3), in which it is possible either to selectively produce a product in which one glycidyl ether is added (see Claim 10) or to selectively produce a product in which two glycidyl ethers are added (see Claim 11).

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-4, and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

During the discussion with the Examiner, Applicants' representative directed the Examiner's attention to the first full paragraph on page 7 of the present Specification, in

which the term "an active hydrogen-containing organic compound" is described. For convenience, this paragraph is as follows:

The active hydrogen-containing organic compound used for the process for producing a glycidyl ether adduct according to the present invention is not particularly restricted as long as it contains active hydrogen atoms and produces a glycidyl ether adduct by the reaction with a glycidyl ether. Specifically, it includes hydroxyl compounds, thiols, carboxylic acids, amines, amides and mixtures thereof.

In regard to the term "product," which is recited in Claims 10-11, "the product" of Claim 10 is one "in which one glycidyl ether is added;" while "the product" of Claim 11 is one "in which two glycidyl ethers are added."

During the discussion, Applicants' representative directed the Examiner's attention to the tabulated data in Tables 1 (page 16) and 2 (page 20), in which the selectivity of the monoether product (Table 1) and diether product (Table 2) is indicated.

It is believed that the term "product" in Claims 10 and 11 is clear in view of the Specification.

Finally, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the term "glycidyl ether adduct." The Examiner's attention is directed to text (page 3, lines 1-7) of the present Specification, which reads in-part "it is possible to efficiently provide a desired glycidyl ether adduct through an addition reaction between a glycidyl ether and an organic compound having active hydrogen atoms." During the discussion, Applicants' representative explained to the Examiner that the term "adduct" is a term used to describe "a chemical addition product." For convenience, Applicants attach hereto a printout of an online dictionary definition for this term.

In view of the comments contained herewith, it is believed that the Claims 1-11 and new Claims 12-23 are free of indefinite language.

It is kindly requested that the Examiner acknowledge the same and withdraw this rejection.

The objection of Claims 7-9 is obviated by amendment.

Claims 7-9 are amended in order to remove improper multiple-dependent language.

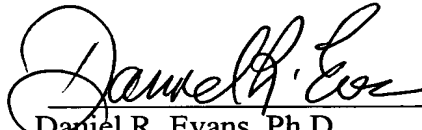
It is requested that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the comments contained herewith, it is believed that the application is in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that a personal or telephonic interview would be helpful in advancing this application toward allowance, she is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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